

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENDING 01646 221738Z

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1667

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: CASC (HURT, ROBERT)

SUBJ: MEDICAL TREATMENT IN USSR-ROBERT HURT

REF: STATE 250733

1. BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH SUCH CASES TO DATE, ROBERT HURT'S REQUEST FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATION AT POLENOV INSTITUTE SHOULD GO DIRECTLY TO SOVIET MINISTRY OF HEALTH. IN THOSE CASES WHERE INSTITUTE HAS RECOMMENDED TREATMENT FOR FOREIGNERS, INSTITUTE HAS HAD TO DEFER IN ANY EVENT TO MINISTRY FOR FINAL APPROVAL. IN HURT'S CASE, SINCE INSTITUTE HAS FORMALLY TURNED DOWN HIS REQUEST, ANY APPEAL

FOR RECONSIDERATION MUST GO DIRECTLY TO MINISTRY. DEFER TO EMBASSY MOSCOW FOR ACTION.

2. FYI: POLENOV INSTITUTE IS EXTREMELY SELECTIVE ABOUT ACCEPTING FOREIGNERS FOR EITHER EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT. WHILE ROGER FRANK CASE PROVED INSTITUTE NOT AVERSE TO PUBLICITY OVER EVEN PARTIAL SUCCESSES, FRANK CASE AND PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF WEST GERMAN CITIZENS HAS RESULTED IN SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN REQUESTS

FOR TREATMENT AT INSTITUTE. INSTITUTE CLEARLY DOES NOT ENCOURAGE ANY CASES WHICH COULD RESULT IN ADVERSE PUBLICITY AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO WESTERNERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR TREATMENT SINCE FRANK IN EARLY 1975. ONE WEST GERMAN WAS RECENTLY ACCEPTED FOR EXAMINATION AND TESTS, BUT INSTITUTE SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSED TO PERFORM SURGERY AND RECOMMENDED ONLY SIMPLE PHYSICAL THERAPY. SEVERAL AMERICAN CITIZENS

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HAVE BEEN FORMALLY TURNED DOWN RECENTLY (HURT, JAMES GOOTEE,

MICHAEL FOSTER) AND SEVERAL OTHER REQUESTS APPARENTLY NOW PENDING.

3. CONGEN ENTIRELY AGREES WITH DEPARTMENT THAT SOVIET EMBASSY
MISTAKENLY ENCOURAGING HURT. IN OUR VIEW, BASED ON POLENOV
INSTITUTE'S FORMAL REFUSAL TO ACCEPT HURT, CHANCES ARE
EXTREMELY SLIM HE WILL BE ACCEPTED, EVEN FOR EXAMINATION. AT
THE SAME TIME, IT IS CERTAINLY WORTH TRYING APPEAL TO SOVIET
MINISTRY OF HEALTH FOR APPROVAL OF HURT'S ADMISSION TO POLENOV
INSTITUTE, EVEN IF ONLY FOR EXAMINATION, SINCE HURT IS UNDER-
STANDABLY ENCOURAGED BY SOVIET EMBASSY COMMENTS AND DESERVES
EVERY CONSIDERATION IN RECEIVING FIRM RESPONSE FROM MINISTRY.
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ADVISE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT IT SHOULD
SUPPORT HURT'S TREATMENT IN FORMAL CHANNELS RATHER THAN JUST
ENCOURAGE HURT ORALLY.
NEUBERT

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